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Claims

Cancel all claims of record and substitute new claims 14 to 30 as follows:

14. A method for creating a consumer's grocery shopping list prior to entering a store, comprising:

(a) a portable barcode scanner, comprising:

(i) a processor;

(ii) a memory that stores product information under the control of the processor;

(iii) logic that obtains a product barcode;

(iv) logic that indicates that said product barcode has been scanned and stored in said memory;

(v) logic that indicates the number of said product barcodes stored in said memory;

(vi) logic that indicates said memory is full;

(vii) logic that creates a query based on said product barcode;

(viii) logic that transmits said product barcode to one or more first computers over a first network infrastructure;

(ix) logic that indicates that said product barcode has been transmitted to one or more first computers over said first network infrastructure;

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(x) logic that receives said product barcode associated information from one or more first computers over said first network infrastructure;

(xi) logic that displays said product barcode associated information on a display, received from one or more first computers over said first network infrastructure; and

(xii) wherein said product barcode associated information relates to at least one of product description, product cost, date and time on which said product barcode was scanned, and a required quantity of said product;

(b) one or more first computers, each first computer comprising;

(i) an associated communications interface channel to receive data from, and to transmit data to, said portable barcode scanner over said first network infrastructure;

(ii) logic that stores said data as shopping list information under the control of said product barcode, in a memory means;

(iii) logic that communicates with a second computer system, over a second network infrastructure to request and receive said product information based on said product barcode;

(iv) logic that keeps track of the frequency that said product barcode has been received from said barcode scanner over said first network infrastructure;

(v) logic that displays a multiplicity of product barcodes, together with said product information, on a first computer display;

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- (vi) logic that indicates that said consumer has obtained said shopping list information in-hand;
 - (c) scanning a needed product barcode using said portable barcode scanner;
 - (d) transferring said scanned product barcode to said first computer, over said first network infrastructure;
 - (e) storing said transferred product barcode in a shopping list database on said first computer, said shopping list database includes other product information, wherein said other product information includes: a product description, a product cost, a date and time on which said product barcode was scanned and an indicator for a required quantity of said product; and
 - (f) obtaining in-hand said stored shopping list from said first computer in order to go to a store and purchase products listed on said shopping list, said obtaining in-hand is selected from the group comprising:
 - (i) printing said stored shopping list on a printing device,
 - (ii) transferring said stored shopping list to a portable computer device, and
 - (iii) using said portable barcode scanner.
15. The portable barcode scanner of claim 14, wherein said first network infrastructure is a wireless link.
16. The portable barcode scanner of claim 15, wherein said wireless link is selected from the group comprising: an infrared link and a Bluetooth radio-frequency link.
17. The portable barcode scanner of claim 14, wherein said first network infrastructure is a wired link between said portable barcode scanner and said first computer.

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18. The portable barcode scanner of claim 17, wherein said wired link is selected from the group comprising: an RS-232 link, USB link, a parallel link and an IEEE 1394 link.

19. The first computer of claim 14 is selected from the group comprising: a personal computer, a personal digital assistant, an Internet appliance, and a cell phone.

20. The first computer of claim 14, wherein said second network infrastructure is the internet.

21. The first computer of claim 14, wherein said portable computer device is selected from the group comprising: a personal digital assistant, and a cell phone.

22. A method for creating a consumer's shopping list prior to entering a store, comprising:

(a) a printed product catalog comprising:

(i) a multiplicity of printed product information, each product information associated with a product barcode, said product information relates to at least one of product description, product merchant name, product merchant contact information, product cost, and date on which said product is offered;

(b) a portable barcode scanner, comprising:

(i) a processor;

(ii) a memory that stores product information under the control of the processor;

(iii) logic that obtains a product barcode;

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- (iv) logic that indicates that said product barcode has been scanned and stored in said memory;
 - (v) logic that indicates the number of said product barcodes stored in said memory;
 - (vi) logic that indicates said memory is full;
 - (vii) logic that creates a query based on said product barcode;
 - (viii) logic that transmits said product barcode to one or more first computers over a first network infrastructure;
 - (ix) logic that indicates that said product barcode has been transmitted to one or more first computers over said first network infrastructure;
 - (x) logic that receives said product barcode associated information from one or more first computers over said first network infrastructure;
 - (xi) logic that displays said product barcode associated information on a display, received from one or more first computers over said first network infrastructure; and
 - (xii) wherein said product barcode associated information relates to at least one of product description, product merchant name, product merchant contact information, product cost, date on which said product is offered, and date and time on which said product barcode was scanned;
- (c) one or more first computers, each first computer comprising;

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- (i) an associated communications interface channel to receive data from, and to transmit data to, said portable barcode scanner over said first network infrastructure;
 - (ii) logic that stores said data as shopping list information under the control of said product barcode, in a memory means;
 - (iii) logic that communicates with a second computer system, over a second network infrastructure to request and receive said product information based on said product barcode;
 - (iv) logic that keeps track of the frequency that said product barcode has been received from said barcode scanner over said first network infrastructure;
 - (v) logic that displays a multiplicity of product barcodes, together with said product information, on a first computer display;
 - (vi) logic that indicates that said consumer has obtained said shopping list information in-hand;
- (d) scanning a needed product barcode using said portable barcode scanner, from said printed product catalog;
- (e) transferring said scanned product barcode to said first computer, over said first network infrastructure;
- (f) storing said transferred product barcode in a shopping list database on said first computer, said shopping list database includes other product information, wherein said other product information includes: a product description, a product cost, a date and time on which said product barcode was scanned and an indicator for a required quantity of said product; and